



Arubians invade the Hyatt Regency parking lot in support of the victims of Hurricane Katrina

The official opening of the Aruba Hurricane Relief event on Friday evening was 5 p.m., but from long before that appointed hour, the lines began, waiting to enter the special area set up in the parking lot of the Hyatt Regency Resort and Casino. Hyatt General Manager Scott Allen had the brilliant idea of organizing a “Happy Hour” flea market that offered bargains on a wide variety of goods, plus food and beverage provided by the Marriott Aruba Resort and Stellaris Casino. The Antonio Bello Blues band provided entertainment, and the island responded in force for this charity event. Though the entrance price was five florins, many stuffed ten, twenty-five, and fifty florin notes in the entrance fee box, expecting no change in return. Many hotels opened their storerooms to provide fantastic buys on furniture, tableware, air-conditioners and mini-refrigerators, and local vendors provided clothes, exercise equipment, appliances and more. Private citizens emptied their closets and cleaned out their garages to donate books, sewing machines, decorative items for the home plus video and computer games. An auction at 7 p.m. for plane tickets to Holland donated by KLM and Amc/Unicon contributed brand new air-conditioners, both SETAR, NV and Digical donated cell phones and other premium items included fine jewelry from Colombian Emeralds and Gandleman Jewelers were auctioned. All this helped to raise the total collected, of which 100% of the proceeds will be donated to assist those left homeless and destitute by the wrath of Hurricane Katrina. The final tally will take place on Monday, but Odalis Lacle, organizer of the auction stated they did “very, very well in funds collected, not only from the sale of items, but from various cash donations as well.”

This is only one of a number of fundraising efforts being organized on the island, as natives watched and were horrified, along with the rest of the world the disaster that hit New Orleans and the surrounding areas. As they did following the Tsunami in December, Arubians responded to the plight of those affected by the weather and sea, opening their hearts and their pocketbooks, knowing that they have been blessed, as an island nation, the good fortune to have avoided these catastrophic events. Many volunteers donated their time, not only goods, to the flea market event, and they all deserve credit for their worldwide community spirit.

Hurricane Katrina Relief

"Our hearts and prayers go out to those in Louisiana and Mississippi that have taken such a tragic and hard blow from this once in a lifetime storm.

Again we in the tourism community must band together to assist our brothers and sisters that are so cruelly affected by nature's blow."

The Hyatt Regency will be hosting a Hurricane Katrina Relief event in the form of a Flea Market on its parking lot, Friday 9/9, 2005, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Entertainment: Crystal Breeze, DJ Michelette Casimir

Food & Beverage at special Happy Hour prices . . .

All proceeds from food & beverage will be donated to Hurricane Katrina Relief

Admission: Afls 5 for charity

- **An appeal is hereby made to the business community to make goods available for sale at the flea market.**
- **An appeal is hereby also made to Aruba in general to come and support the sale during Friday's Happy Hour.**

100% of the money raised will be earmarked to Hurricane Katrina Relief funds.

The Hyatt Regency will set up tables in the parking lot and the different merchants and members of the business community are invited to bring goods and obsolete inventory for sale.

(Items will be sold in booths according to their value, Afls 2, Afls 5, Afls 10, Afls 15, Afls 25, Afls 50, Afls 100, Afls 150 & Misc, no price tags, no inventory)

Goods delivery: Goods for sale can be accepted from 8 a.m., Friday, the earlier the better.

Volunteers: Will be coordinated by Florence Stadwijk at the Hyatt Regency, #733 4575, #523 4575

We need volunteers to sell goods, also to work the different booths from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., set up early, break down late.

Bake Sale: Will be coordinated by Alfonso Nedd, #733 4535. Bring items for sale at 4 p.m.

No need to call, or register, just show up with cakes, cooking and goods for sale.

Auction: Will be coordinated by Odalis Lacle # 593 9550, please donate gifts for the auction.

Think about the victims of Katrina

Come and buy, eat, drink for charity . . .

PLEASE HELP . . . DONATE ITEMS FOR SALE . . . BUY ITEMS SO FUNDS CAN BE RAISED

Let the goodness and generosity of the Aruban community show